



Inside College Station

A publication for College Station citizens

When the Weather Outside is Frightful

Heating and cooling your home uses more energy and drains more energy dollars than any other system in your home. Typically, 44% of your utility bill goes for heating and cooling.

No matter what kind of heating and air-conditioning system you have in your house, save money and increase comfort by properly maintaining and upgrading your equipment. But remember, an energy-efficient furnace alone will not have as great an impact on your energy bills as using the whole-house approach. By combining proper equipment maintenance and upgrades with appropriate insulation, weatherization, and thermostat settings, you can cut your energy bills.

Heating Tips

- *Set your thermostat* as low as is comfortable.
- *Clean or replace filters* once a month or as needed.

- *Clean warm-air registers, baseboard heaters, and radiators* as needed; make sure they're not blocked by furniture, carpeting, or drapes.



- *Use kitchen, bath, and other ventilating fans wisely.* In just 1 hour, these fans can pull out a houseful of warmed or cooled air. Turn fans off as soon as they have done the job.
- *Keep draperies and shades open* on south-facing windows during the heating season to allow sunlight to enter your home; close them at night to reduce the chill you may feel from cold windows.
- *Close unoccupied rooms* that are isolated from the rest of the house

and turn off the heating for that room or zone. However, do not turn the heating off if it adversely affects the rest of your system. For example, if you heat your house with a heat pump, do not close the vents – closing the vents could harm the heat pump.

- *Select energy-efficient equipment* when buying new equipment. Your contractor should be able to provide energy fact sheets for different types, models, and designs to help you compare energy usage. Look for the ENERGY STAR® label. The ENERGY STAR® is a program of the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) designed to help consumers identify energy-efficient appliances and products.

City Employee of the Year



Bridgette George (pictured with Mayor Ron Silvia), a 15-year College Station employee with an infectious smile and ability to handle several tasks simultaneously, received the 2005 Employee of the Year title at the Annual Awards Banquet.

Eight other employees were nominated for the City's top honor: **Brian Hilton**, *Emergency Management*; **Dana Albrecht**,

Parks & Recreation; **Mike Hare**, *Ofc. Technology & Information Services*; **Mark Wiese**, *Public Works*; **Howard Putz**, *Parks & Recreation*; **Carol Arnold**, *Municipal Court*; **Karl Goldapp**, *College Station Utilities* and **Marshall Wallace**, *Public Works*.

The 2005 Employee Banquet provided an opportunity to recognize 116 employees with a combined total of 1,190 years of service.



Dates to Remember

January 2 New Year's Day
(observed) City Offices Closed.

January 3-4 CSISD Student holiday,
Staff development days

January 5 CSISD classes resume
Planning & Zoning Commission,
7 p.m., City Hall*

January 7 Christmas Tree
Recycling, 1 - 5 p.m., Central Park

January 11 Senior Computer Club,
9-10:30 a.m., 764-6371

January 12 City Council Meeting -
Work/Study Session 3 p.m., Regular
Meeting 7 p.m., City Hall

January 14 MLK Musical Tribute
& Celebration, 6:30 p.m., Lincoln
Recreation Center

January 16 MLK Holiday - City
Offices Closed, CSISD holiday

January 17 TAMU Spring Semester
begins

January 25 Senior Computer Club,
9-10:30 a.m., 764-6371

January 26 City Council, Work/Study
Session 3 p.m., Regular Meeting 7 p.m.,
City Hall *

February 8 Senior Computer Club,
9-10:30 a.m., 764-6371

February 9 City Council, Work/Study
Session 3 p.m., Regular Meeting 7 p.m.,
City Hall

February 10 CSISD Student Holiday

February 10-12 Pool Trout Fishout
Southwood Hallaran Pool 764-3486

February 22 Senior Computer Club,
9-10:30 a.m., 764-6371

February 23 City Council, Work/
Study Session 3 p.m., Regular Meeting
7 p.m., City Hall

February 28 2006 Home & Garden
Show, Brazos Center, 846-1420

* Proposed changes to the UDO will be
discussed at these meetings.

News to know



Congratulations to the 24 College Station residents selected for the **2006 Citizens University**. They'll join the growing ranks of citizens who take a more active roll in local govenment as they spend 10 weeks learning how city government works. Participants in the Citizens University Class of 2006 are Alison Batenhorst, Carolyn Berrow, Jerry Cooper, Debra Davis, Deanie Dudley, Margit Garay, Todd Gregory, David Hart, Rick Heaney, Patrick Heaslet, Tammy Jackson, Thomas Mather, Amanda Mather, Melissa McIlhaney, Jeannie Miller, Austin Moore, Bentley Nettles, Roger Reese, Shawn Rhodes, Donald Roper, Julie Schultz, Hayley Scotti, Douglas Starr, and Mary Fran Troy.



CSU is pleased to offer a more efficient way to receive your utility bill information. **Sign up for e-BILL to receive your bill information by email.** e-BILL will allow you to receive your bill details within hours of bill generation verses traditional mail delivery. This email will contain a link to your account information. View bill details and pay your bill online using Visa, Mastercard or Discover. e-BILL customers can also print a bill remittance stub that can be mailed with your payment. This stub can be accessed at <https://epay.cstx.gov>. Simply enter your account number and then click on the link for printable bill.

Currently on bank draft? Consider signing up for e-BILL. Sign up today 764-3535 or 800/849-6623 or online at www.cstx.gov/ucs.



The 2006 College Station Parks and Recreation calendars are now available. Calendars are free to the public and contain information about special events, sports, holidays and festivals throughout the community. Pick up your copy at City Hall, 1101 Texas Ave, or the Parks and Recreation Headquarters in Central Park, 1000 Krennek Tap Road. For more information call 764-3486.



The College Station Fire Department invites you to participate in the 7th Annual Citizens Fire Academy, designed to give residents insight into the intense and fulfilling roles firefighters play in our community. The 11-week academy takes place on Monday evenings (6:30 - 9:30 p.m.) from February - May, and covers topics ranging from administration and incident command to search and rescue and vehicle extrication. "Recruits" will have the opportunity to participate in ride outs with fire engines and ambulances, tour 911 dispatch, and take part in a "live burn".

Applicants must be at least 18 and live or work in the Brazos Valley. For more information or to apply, call 764-3712 or email cgiedraitis@cstx.gov. Deadline to apply is January 27.